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中泰自由贸易协议的效应分析: 以水果与蔬菜贸易为例

THE EFFECTS OF THAILAND-CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
: A CASE STUDY OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

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摘要

本文研究中泰自由贸易协议对蔬果产品进出口的影响。从两个方面进行研究：一、研究中泰自由贸易区零关税蔬菜及水果产品贸易的状况（HS 编码 07 与 08 类商品）二、研究自由贸易协议可能为泰国带来的贸易商机：主要从贸易额、贸易数据、贸易平衡以及对部分泰国民众的影响。

研究发现，自由贸易协议产生了良性的贸易创造效益；随着协定初始效果的呈现，泰国在贸易额、贸易数据以及贸易盈余方面表现出高于中国方面的收益。这些优势主要来源于向中国出口的泰国木薯，还有泰国的几种热带水果，例如：龙眼、榴莲、香蕉及椰子增加数额较大，增长速度较快。同时，泰国也进口中国各种各样的温带水果。近年来，中国已经成为泰国木薯以最大出口地和温带水果的最大进口国。因此，该协议对目前泰国的进出口贸易具有双重影响。泰国方面在获取了部分蔬果产品贸易增长的好处之余，还可能产生对中国市场的高度依赖性问题：不论是泰国木薯的出口或是来自中国温带水果的进口。

可以说，这一个协议是一把“双刃剑”。因此，泰国进出口贸易者要抓住机遇，也要迎接挑战，解决问题，更好地促进本国经济的发展。

关键词：中泰自由贸易协议，零关税，早期收获，蔬果产品

ABSTRACT

The research report, entitled “The Effects of Thailand-China Free Trade Agreement: A Case Study of Fruit and Vegetable Products”, has two main objectives; (1) To study about Thailand and China FTA establishment on Fruit and Vegetable Products in HS chapter 07-08. (2) To study about the economic effects to Thailand in quantity, value, and balance of trade after establishing FTA on fruit and vegetable products and also the socio-economic effects to those who are in agricultural sector, such as exporters, farmers and consumers.

The results of study shows that establishing Thailand-China FTA brought about the trade creation between these two countries and after the agreement under Early Harvest Program has started, Thailand has taken benefits more than China in term of trade value, trade quantity and trade balance. However, this advantage was only from an export increasing of manioc and some tropical products, such as banana, longan and durian, while Thailand imported several kinds of fruit and vegetable products from China as well especially temperate fruits and vegetables. For years, China has made up almost the entire market of Thailand’s manioc exports and become the biggest temperate fruit and vegetable exporter to Thailand. Therefore, it might be further problems for Thailand both in long and short term.

Key Words; Thailand-China FTA, Tariff, Early Harvest Program, and Fruit and Vegetable Products

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Many developed and developing countries have concluded regional and bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in order to enhance their trade and boost their economic growth for the past two decades. These regional trends have emerged in part due to the slow progress of multilateral trade liberalization under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before to 1995 and the World Trade Organization (WTO) after 1995. This is because of conflicting objectives between developed and developing countries regarding the issue of high tariffs on agricultural products, export subsidies and domestic support which lead to a relatively high level of trade protection and undermine effective and fair international competition in the agricultural sector.

Agriculture is the main sector in Thailand and many other Asian countries, especially in terms of its contribution to employment generation, even though its share of gross domestic product (GDP) has been decreasing over the years. For Thailand, agricultural sector is often sensitively vulnerable to criticism when it is taken into the FTA Agreement

Thailand and China especially established their bilateral trade on June 18, 2003 by a special case, as the trade agreement between Thailand and China was set up under a comprehensive trade and economic agreement (ASEAN-China FTA) which was signed in 2001 for a period of ten years and it started with the signing of Accelerated Tariff Elimination under The Early Harvest Program, which effected to agricultural products in HS chapter 01 - 08.

Thailand – China FTA has first agreed to undertake the elimination of tariffs on vegetable and fruit products subject to HS chapter 07 to 08 under the Early Harvest Program of the Framework Agreement, which has lowered the tariff on 116 types of fruit and vegetable, including cabbages, onions, garlic, tomatoes, sweet corn, coconut, pears, etc.

Therefore, there have been a lot of effects on both countries after FTA starts, especially Thai agricultural sector. To study about the impacts after FTA has been imposed for 7 years, it is important for government to launch the policies for recovering domestic and international market in order to bring about sustainable economy to Thailand.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The China-Thailand FTA was signed in June 2003 and came into effect four months later in October 2003. The Thaksin government cited its reasons for forming a free trade area with China that is Thailand's economic advantages. The main reasons behind this statement is that China has a population of 1.3 billion, compares with Thailand's 60 million people, it makes China become a huge market.

It is an "Early Harvest Program Agreement" which focused on farm trade alone, whereby both countries opened their agricultural markets before the broader ASEAN-China FTA comes into force in 2010. Under the deal, tariffs for 166 types of fruits and vegetables are cut to zero.

The China-Thailand FTA has had great impacts on Thailand, amply documented by NGOs, farmers' groups, academics and the press. A large number of Thai garlic, longan and other fruit and vegetable producers, especially those in the North, have lost their livelihoods because they cannot compete against the cheap flood of cheap Chinese imports. In fact, despite the government's reassurances, there are only Thai cassava (manioc products) exports that rise. Meanwhile, Cheap Chinese fruits and vegetables, in the meanwhile, are criticized by Thai people for their high level of pesticide residue levels. However, this actually lead the two governments to adopt the joint private food safety standards (Thai-China GAP), providing yet another boost to corporate farming and further concentration.

Although Thailand is currently maintaining its positive trade balance, increased imports from China have greatly exceeded the increase in Thai exports. If the government allows the current trend to continue without speeding up negotiations with the various Chinese provinces on import regulations and improvement of product

quality, Chinese fresh products will certainly occupy the Thai market because Chinese product prices are very much cheaper than Thai's.

Therefore, it is interesting to study the key determinant factors and effects of establishment FTA between Thailand and China in order to guide to Thai government to find the resolution for domestic and international market in time.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are;

1. To study about Thailand – China Free Trade Agreement on vegetable and fruit products in HS chapter 07-08 under ASEAN – China Free Trade Area.
2. To study about positive and negative impacts on the Thai economy in view of quantity, value, and balance of trade after establishing FTA on fruit and vegetable products.

1.3 SCOPE OF STUDY

The study of economic effects to Thailand after establishing FTA between Thailand and China is emphasized on fruit and vegetable products which are in HS code 07 -08 of bilateral agreement under ASEAN – China Free Trade Area. To achieve the study, finding out the impact comparison between before and after signing the agreement (More than six years in duration) over the studying period from 2002 to 2008 is conducted. Moreover, the study also presents the future trend of Thai fruit and vegetable producer who will be an importer and exporter as well.

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study is explained by using the primary and secondary data and information based on the theoretical framework. It is divided into 5 chapters. The first chapter describes the statement of the study, as well as the objectives and expected

benefits of the study, the scope, the conceptual framework and organization of the study. The review of theoretical concept and the survey of empirical study related to this issue are presented in the second chapter. The third chapter deals with the research methodology, such as collecting data, types of data and how to analyze data. The data analysis of Thai – China Free Trade Agreement presents in the fourth chapter while the results of study and conclusion are shown in the last chapter.

1.5 EXPECTED BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

1. To understand the framework of the bilateral Free Trade Area Agreement between Thailand and China under the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area Agreement.
2. To understand the facts and effects after signing agreement on Thai's agricultural sector after signing the agreement.
3. To provide the status of the future trend of fruit and vegetable products position.

1.6 THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The objectives of this study are to study the impacts of Thai-China FTA Establishment, especially the positive and negative effects on the Thai economy in view of quantity, value, and balance of trade on fruit and vegetable products. Therefore, the study is based on the following conceptual framework which is adapted from several theories and models.

The primary and secondary data are taken into related theories in order to compare the advantage and disadvantage in case of Thai-China FTA. For example, the economics integration and protective trade policy are used to determine the advantage and disadvantage of establishing FTA. Besides, the basic theory of custom union is used to describe whether or not the FTA agreement creates trade creation to Thailand's agricultural sector or not by comparing from the trade quantity and balance of trade data.

Furthermore, theory of country size is also taken into the framework. The theory essentially shows that comparing two different-sized countries, the bigger one could benefit from its huge size and abundant resources. Importantly, this theory can further explain the aspect and trade volume of each product. If there are great different sizes of two countries who trade with each other, quantity of product and demand of consumption are also different. Bigger one will export and import goods less than smaller one and will have costly transportation due to its large size but it will have more comparative advantage on its economic production scale.

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